DEFENSE HEALTH NETWORK PACIFIC RIM

NAVAL MEDICAL FORCES PACIFIC

PACIFIC PULSE

USNMRTC Yokosuka DCSS Dress White Inspection

U.S. Navy Cmdr. Christopher DeAngelis, Director of Clinical Support Services (DCSS) at U.S. Naval Medical Readiness and Training Command (USNMRTC) Yokosuka, leads a service dress whites uniform inspection for DCSS. Uniform inspections are a long-standing Navy tradition dating back to the 19th century, aimed at ensuring military discipline, professionalism, and readiness. (U.S. Navy photo by Ai Hazama)

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A MESSAGE FROM REAR ADM. VALDES

Dear Team,

Across Defense Health Network Pacific Rim and Naval Medical Forces Pacific, readiness remains the foundation of our mission, with innovation playing a vital role in how we deliver on that mission every day. Whether responding to real-world emergencies, collaborating across commands, or advancing medical capabilities, our teams continue to lead by example in military medicine.

At NH/NMRTC Twentynine Palms, Lt. Cmdr. Riely Hoyer's swift action to stabilize a stabbing victim in downtown Palm Springs was an inspiring reminder that readiness doesn't begin at the hospital door. Our people are always ready to respond—"anytime, anywhere" isn't just something we say, it's what we do.

We also continue to see powerful examples of collaboration, from NH/NMRTC Twentynine Palms and NMC/NMRTC San Diego providing staffing support to Lemoore, to Bremerton launching a teleradiology partnership with USNH/USNMRTC Rota, Spain. These efforts strengthen the system and ensure our patients receive timely, high-quality care wherever they are.

Innovation and improvement continue to thrive throughout the Network and Region. NMC/NMRTC San Diego showcased over 100 staff-driven projects at its annual research and process improvement events, while NH/NMRTC Camp Pendleton hosted its inaugural research symposium in collaboration with the Naval Health Research Center, and USNH/USNMRTC Okinawa hosted the Pacific region's first high-level sterilization training course. Through events like these, you are shaping the future of military medicine.

The dedication to proactive health protection was further demonstrated when the NH/NMRTC Twentynine Palms Industrial Hygiene team, partnered with NH/NMRTC Camp Pendleton to conduct critical blast overpressure sampling...

(Continued on p. 3)

Rear. Adm. Guido Valdes

DHA PRIORITIES:

- Enabling combat support to the joint force in competition, crisis, or conflict
- Building a modernized, integrated, and resilient health delivery system
- Dedicated and inspired teams of professionals driving military health's next evolution

A MESSAGE FROM REAR ADM. VALDES

...during operational exercises at Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms. This vital work ensures we are evaluating and mitigating risk to our personnel, safeguarding our warfighters' health and readiness.

Our commitment to joint readiness was reinforced through collaborative planning between USNH/USNMRTC Guam and the 36th Medical Group at Andersen Air Force Base, focusing on contingency operations and integration for upcoming exercises and real-world responses to improve readiness.

USNH/USNMTRC Guam was honored to host Dr. Stephen Ferrara, acting assistant secretary of defense for health affairs, and Ms. Susan Orsega, deputy assistant secretary of defense for health services policy and oversight. Their visits, along with engagement from congressional leaders and international partners, reinforced the strategic importance of the work done by our team in Guam. Ms. Orsega also recognized our people at U.S. Naval Hospitals Yokosuka and Okinawa for their contributions to warfighter readiness and health care excellence.

From operational response to innovation and collaboration, your efforts are advancing readiness and delivering impact across the region.

Thank you for your professionalism, your resilience and your commitment to excellence in everything you do.

Respectfully,
RDML Guido Valdes, MC, USN
Commander, Naval Medical Forces Pacific
Director, Defense Health Network Pacific Rim

Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Services Policy and Oversight Susan Orsega presents a coin to USNH Yokosuka Director Capt. Torrin Velazquez. (Photo by Daniel Taylor, USNHY Public Affairs)

SURGEON GENERAL'S LINES OF EFFORTS

LOE 1. Deliver Expeditionary Medicine Systems (EXMEDS)

LOE 2. Increase Sailor and Marine Deployability

LOE 3. Provide Quality Healthcare and Patient Safety Across the Naval Force

LOE 4. Recruit and Retain Navy Medicine Shipmates

DIRECTOR'S ASSESSMENT HIGHLIGHTS

NHC/NMRTC Oak Harbor

On March 20, U.S. Representative Rick Larsen (WA-02) visited the MTF and met with leadership. Topics of interest included My Military Health (DHA's new model of care), TRICARE reimbursements, behavioral health, and the top five specialty referrals requiring travel outside the MTF's geographical area

NH/NMRTC Twentynine Palms

While jogging in downtown Palm Springs on March 20, Lt. Cmdr. Riley Hoyer, an emergency medicine physician and head of the MTF's emergency medicine department, encountered a stabbing victim. Hearing screams for help, he immediately acted, stabilizing the victim and controlling the bleeding until first responders arrived. Hoyer's swift response exemplifies the always-ready mindset of military medical professionals dedicated to saving lives, anytime, anywhere

Lt. Cmdr. Riley Hoyer, an emergency physician and Department Head of Emergency Medicine at Naval Hospital Twentynine Palms. (Photo by Christopher Jones, NHTP PAO)

NMC/NMRTC San Diego

The MTF hosted Joint Task Force Southern Guard (JTF-SG) medical representatives at four branch clinics March 21-April 1. The JTF-SG met with staff and visited clinic spaces where their National Guard troops will receive care while deployed to the area in support of the task force's mission. This will ensure seamless coordination of care in support of the health and readiness of these troops

MTF leaders hosted a roundtable discussion April 2 with congressional staffers from the offices of Representatives Darrell Issa, Sara Jacobs, Mike Levin, Juan Vargas, and Scott Peters. Topics of interest included the MTF's mission, occupational medicine support to the fleet, civilian staffing, collaboration with the VA, and the maxillofacial restoration program and their innovative "Jaw-in-a-Day" surgery.

DIRECTOR'S ASSESSMENT HIGHLIGHTS

NMC/NMRTC San Diego

German Maj. Gen. Hans-Ulrich Holtherm, commandant of the Bundeswehr Medical Academy, met with MTF/NMRTC leadership and toured the facility April 8. The purpose of the visit was to learn more about the NMCSD's medical, training, and research capabilities and explore potential areas for collaboration.

Capt. Elizabeth Adriano and Maj. Gen. (MC) Dr. Hans-Ulrich Holtherm, Commandant of the Bundeswehr Medical Academy (Photo by Marcelo Calero, NMCSD PAO)

USNH/USNMRTC Guam

Acting Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs Dr. Stephen Ferrara toured the MTF April 16, met with leadership, and attended a virtual coalition meeting with Defense Health Network Pacific Rim and other network MTFs in the Indo-Pacific region. Topics of discussion included staffing for the hospital and Branch Health Clinic Camp Blaz, Level II trauma capabilities on the island (outside of the MTF), blood bank capabilities, and the equipment ordering process.

Dr. Stephen Ferrara, acting assistant secretary of defense for health affairs Capt. Joel Schofer. (Photo by HM1 Clien Lester Guico, USNHG Public Affairs)

Congressman James Moylan visited the hospital and met with leadership April 18. Moylan and his staff toured the facility and topics of discussion focused on Level III trauma capabilities, mental health resources, blood bank capabilities, and the VA sharing agreement.

Staff from the Korean Consulate attended a lunch meeting with the MTF director, April 3. MTF leadership regularly meet with consulate staff to bolster their relationship and future partnership opportunities.

DIRECTOR'S ASSESSMENT HIGHLIGHTS

USNH/USNMRTC Okinawa

On March 26, the hospital onboarded eight new Japanese Fellows, following the March 21 graduation of the previous group. Both Okinawa and USNH Yokosuka have Fellowship programs that forge partnerships between the MTFs and their host nation and bridge understanding between cultures and health care systems. While the Japanese Fellows gain knowledge of Western medicine and standards of care, the MTFs benefit from having the Fellows act as translators and liaisons with Japanese hospitals, facilitating beneficiary care.

Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense, Health Services Policy and Oversight, Ms. Susan Orsega visited the MTF April 9. After touring the facility, she attended a town hall with hospital staff.

Susan Orsega, deputy assistant secretary of defense for health services policy and oversight, talks with staff at USNH Okinawa. (Photo by MC1 Trey Fowler, USNHO Public Affairs)

USNH/USNMRTC Yokosuka

Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Services Policy and Oversight Ms. Susan Orsega visited the MTF April 11. While there, she conducted a town hall with hospital staff and presented coins to three staff members recognizing their contributions to warfighter readiness and health care excellence in the areas of preventive medicine, sterile processing, and process improvement.

Capt. Torrin Velazquez gives Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Services Policy and Oversight Susan Orsega a tour of the hospital. (Photo by Daniel Taylor, USNHY Public Affairs)

REBUILDING OUR MILITARY

Build Unity within the Department

NH/NMRTC Bremerton

DHA Senior Enlisted Leader Chief Master Sgt. Tanya Johnson visited the MTF April 24 to familiarize herself with its services and capabilities unique to supporting area Navy operational forces, including Marine Corps Security Force Battalion Bangor; Commander, Submarine Group 9; and Puget Sound Naval Shipyard. MTF leadership briefed her on medical services tailored to these forces, including occupational medicine, preventive medicine, radiation health, the Personnel Reliability Program, industrial hygiene, and audiology.

Chief Master Sergeant Tanya Y. Johnson, Defense Health Agency's senior enlisted leader presents a personal challenge coin to HM2 Cade Crenshaw. (Photo by Douglas H. Stutz, NHB PAO).

NH/NMRTC Twentynine Palms

On March 25, the Industrial Hygiene (IH) team, including Lt. Adiaratou Sidibe, assisted NH/NMRTC Camp Pendleton's IH team conduct blast overpressure (BOP) sampling during operational exercises at Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms. This allows the team to evaluate risk and track personnel potentially exposed to BOP, as required by DoD policy, helping keep our fighters safe while building readiness.

NH/NMRTC TP's IH team assists NH/NMRTC CP's IH team with sampling during an exercise at MCAGCC Twentynine Palms. (Photo by Christopher Jones, NHTP PAO)

MTF personnel from Branch Health Clinic China Lake provided pediatric diabetes education to staff from Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake's Child Development Center (CDC) March 27. By ensuring CDC staff understand proper care and safety for children with diabetes, the clinic is supporting the health and readiness of military families.

Staff from BHC China Lake provide pediatric diabetes education to installation CDC staff. (Photo courtesy of Christopher Jones, NHTP PAO)

REBUILDING OUR MILITARY

Build Unity within the Department

NHC/NMRTC Lemoore

The MTF's Branch Health Clinic Fallon supported U.S. Naval Air Force's Carrier Airwing (CVW) 7 fleet response training plan March 4-28. During CVW trainings, which increases Naval Air Station Fallon's active duty footprint by 1,000-2,000 Sailors, the clinic provides ancillary medical services (lab, immunizations, pharmacy), mental health care, audiology testing, and dental sick-call support.

An F-5 Tiger II, attached to the Saints of Fighter Squadron Composite (VFC) 13 taxis aboard Naval Air Station Fallon. (DVIDS)

Navy doctor Lt. Peirce Derico from NH Twentynine Palms provided staffing support to NHCL's primary care clinic during a critical physician shortage in March. Derico delivered efficient, highly quality patient care while maintaining a 96% optimization rate.

Lt. Cmdr. Richard Blair from NMC/NMRTC SD provided audiology coverage to NHCL March 17-21. While there, Blair was able to process referrals to support aviation warfighters' auditory health requirements at Lemoore and Naval Air Station Fallon.

Mobile Hearing Conservation and Testing Van (DVIDS)

USNH/USNMRTC Guam

Leadership from the MTF /USNMRTC and Andersen Air Force Base's 36th Medical Group met March 6 to discuss contingency operations and integration in preparation for an upcoming joint exercise that will include mass casualty scenarios and ensure the teams are ready for real-world situations.

36th Medical Group, Andersen Air Base, Guam (DHA.mil)

REBUILDING OUR MILITARY

Build Unity within the Department

USNH/USNMRTC Guam

U.S. Coast Guard Rear Adm. Carola List, Commander, Operational Logistics Command, met with MTF leadership March 27 and toured the hospital. Topics of discussion included logistics, capabilities, and support.

MTF/NMRTC leadership attended the Joint Region Marianas (JRM) typhoon seminar March 28. JRM coordinated the meeting with area commands to discuss emergency preparedness, best practices, and strategies with the Typhoon Condition of Readiness (TCOR) level.

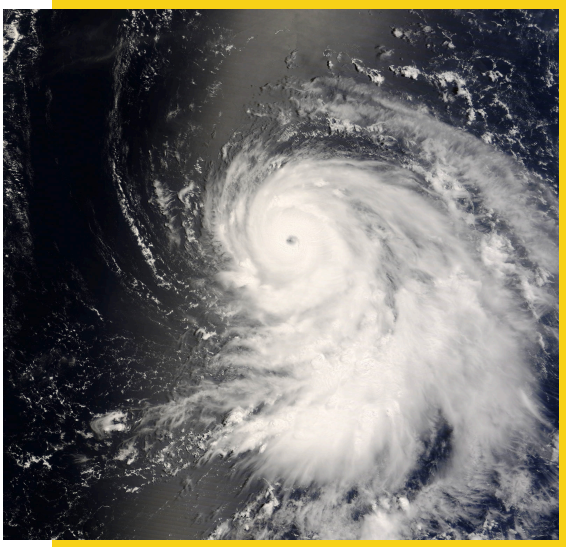


Image of a typhoon. (DVIDS)

USNH/USNMRTC Yokosuka

On April 8, the hospital's Patient and Family Partnership Council (PFPC) convened to provide leadership with valuable community feedback on enhancing patient experience and healthcare delivery. One notable PFPC-driven initiative allows space-available patients to now schedule appointments at the immunization clinic. In addition to newly added walk-in hours, this change makes vaccinations more accessible to the entire military community.

During Commander, Fleet Activities Yokosuka's (CFAY) Spring Festival 2025 on March 20, 35 Hospital Corpsmen from the MTF/USNMRTC provided medical support through roving patrols and manning first aid stations, ensuring the health and safety of attendees. The event strengthens the U.S. partnership with Japanese allies and was attended by more than 55,000 local nationals.

Corpsmen at the CFAY Spring Festival medical booth. (Photo by Ms. Ai Hazama, USNH Yokosuka Public Affairs)

REBUILDING OUR MILITARY

Build Unity within the Department

USNH/USNMRTC Yokosuka

Branch Health Clinic Iwakuni hosted a successful STEM Day March 20, partnering with the Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force, Marine Aircraft Group 12, and the Army Veterinarian Clinic. The event welcomed 1,050 Department of Defense Education Activity students and teachers, along with 500 local nationals, showcasing the clinic's work. This collaborative effort strengthened relationships with both the local military and host nation communities while inspiring future healthcare professionals through exposure to military medicine.

STEM Day at BHC Iwakuni. (Photo courtesy of BHC Iwakuni)

USNH/USNMRTC Okinawa

The hospital's directorate of public health recently provided critical immunization support to III Marine Expeditionary Force by ordering 150 Japanese Encephalitis Vaccines, to II MEF by ordering 2,725 Southern Hemisphere influenza vaccine, and 170 influenza vaccines for the Air Force.

DEFEND THE NATION

Innovate and Modernize

NH/NMRTC Camp Pendleton

On March 13, the hospital held its inaugural Annual Research Symposium to showcase projects conducted in collaboration with Naval Health Research Center and highlight scholarly activity by the MTF's Family Medicine Residency and Sports Medicine Fellowship programs. These research projects support training requirements for graduation as well as the advancement of health care through scientific inquiry.

Presenters from NHCP's inaugural research symposium. (Photo by Curtis Hill, NHCP PAO)

DEFEND THE NATION

Innovate and Modernize

NH/NMRTC Camp Pendleton

Capt. Jenny Burkett recognized winners of the annual Continuous Process Improvement Fair on April 18, 2025. Twenty-two projects were presented across three categories (low-hanging fruit, just do it, and Lean Six Sigma), along with a People's Choice award.

Capt. Jenny Burkett with CPI Fair winners. (Photo courtesy of NHCP)

NH/NMRTC Twentynine Palms

The MTF/NMRTC hosted their 10th Annual Process Improvement Fair March 14, showcasing 15 projects aimed at enhancing patient care, streamlining operations, and improving hospital efficiency. The Materials Management team placed first with their "Transforming Our Warehouse" project that focused on optimizing storage and redistributing unused supplies.

10th Annual CPI Fair. (Photo courtesy of NHTP)

New Picture Archiving and Communications System (PACS) servers were installed April 4, under the direction of the MTF's director for clinical support services and will go live in May. These upgraded servers provide the radiology team with state-of-the-art equipment to securely store, transmit, and access medical imaging. This ensures optimal diagnostic capabilities and medical decision-making, ultimately benefiting the healthcare and readiness of warfighters and their families.

DEFEND THE NATION

Innovate and Modernize

NHC/NMRTC Lemoore

Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class (HM3) Kelsey Gonzales streamlined the Physical Readiness Test (PRT) waiver process, reducing wait times from 45 days to under 14. By implementing virtual appointments for applicable cases, reserving in-person appointments for recurring or undocumented injuries, and establishing a streamlined drop-off system for waiver requests, HM3 Gonzales significantly improved patient access to care and reduced unnecessary appointment utilization. This improvement directly benefits operational forces by reducing time away from work and their mission, particularly during the February-November PRT cycle.

Sailors assigned to USS Blue Ridge perform planks during a physical readiness test. (DVIDS)

NMC/NMRTC San Diego

On April 10, the MTF's/NMRTC's annual Continuous Process Improvement Fair showcased 46 presentations highlighting staff innovation in patient care. Topics ranged from digital dental appointments and reducing opioid use in urethroscopy patients to optimizing clinic workload capture. This event underscores NMCSD's dedication to encouraging staff-driven initiatives that enhance patient care, bolster safety measures, and increase efficiency in healthcare delivery

The MTF held a Patient and Family Partnership Council virtual town hall April 16. Topics discussed included the status of the TRICARE/TriWest contract transition and the Exceptional Family Member program.

DEFEND THE NATION

Innovate and Modernize

NMC/NMRTC San Diego

On April 18, the MTF held their 40th Annual Academic Research Competition, showcasing innovative research with podium and poster presentations. There were a total of 65 entries—including those from Naval Health Research Center, a frequent research collaborator—and winning topics ranged from eye pain after laser surgery, treatment strategies for pilonidal disease, and temporary limited duty stays by diagnoses.

NMCSD's annual academic research competition. (Photo by Marcelo Calero, NMCSD PAO)

USNH/USNMRTC Okinawa

Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class Hannah Doying, an advanced laboratory technician, was recently recognized for overseeing specimen processing for more than 47,000 beneficiaries, leading her team to complete 4,503 tests. She also proactively implemented a new semen analysis system that dramatically reduced turnaround time from two hours to just 25 minutes, significantly improving patient care.

HM2 Doying Reciving an award. (Photo courtesy of USNHO)

Leaders from the MTF and the University of the Ryukyus Hospital signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) for cooperation in emergency management and disaster preparedness. The agreement facilitates the exchange of best practices, coordinated emergency response, and the creation of a roster of credentialed host-nation clinicians available during crises. This will strengthen the ability to provide timely, effective medical care during emergencies in this critical region.

Capt. James Demitrack with leadership from University of the Ryukyus, holding their MOU. (Photo courtesy of USNHO)

DEFEND THE NATION

Innovate and Modernize

USNH/USNMRTC Yokosuka

During the MTF's/NMRTC's 2025 Continuous Process Improvement Fair held April 18, staff showcased 15 projects via MS Teams, connecting staff virtually from clinics across three countries. Projects of note included one that decreased the time for Industrial Hygiene Survey reports from 52 days to 37, another that increased Bar Code Medication Administration compliance from 50% to 96%, and one that improved turnaround times for Marine Overseas Screenings by 36%.

2025 CPI Fair. (Photo by Ms. Ai Hazama, USNHY Public Affairs)

BUILD READINESS AND SUPPORT LETHALITY

Train, Equip, Enhance

NH/NMRTC Bremerton

The MTF is partnering with USNH Rota, Spain, to launch a teleradiology initiative aimed at supporting Bremerton's high imaging volume through remote radiological interpretation. Once credentialing requirements and testing are complete, this collaboration will optimize resource utilization, prevent network leakage, enhance Bremerton's capacity to manage demand efficiently, and provide valuable skills sustainment opportunities for clinicians at USNH Rota.

Dental Cone Beam Computed Tomography exam analyzed by Lt. Cmdr. Douglas Steffy. (Photo by Douglas Stutz, NHB PAO)

From April 21 to May 16, the hospital launched its inaugural Sick Call Screeners Course, equipping hospital corpsmen to assess patients, and recommend diagnoses and treatment, under supervision, for minor medical conditions such as upper respiratory infections, musculoskeletal issues, and gastrointestinal complaints. This initiative improves primary care access for active duty personnel and prepares corpsmen for operational roles. Training topics included anatomy and physiology, patient administration, and physical examination techniques.

BUILD READINESS AND SUPPORT LETHALITY

Train, Equip, Enhance

NH/NMRTC Bremerton

The hospital, led by their chaplain, recently held resiliency training for 15 Sailors in the Substance Abuse Rehabilitation Program (SARP). The training provided tools for recovery and self-worth to help participants, many of whom are separating from active duty, be successful in civilian life.

Lt. Cmdr. Solomon Han, NHB Pastoral Care head and Navy Chaplain Corps officer. (Photo by Douglas Stutz, NHB PAO)

NH/NMRTC Camp Pendleton

On March 19, the hospital hosted a delegation of medical staff from the Indonesian Korps Marinir (Marine Corps) for a pre-deployment site visit in advance of a large-scale exercise with I Marine Expeditionary Force later this year. The delegation's objective was to understand NHCP's medical capability in the event one of their service members requires acute medical care while onboard Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton for training.

Medical staff from the Indonesian Korps Marinir. (Photo courtesy of NHCP)

The MTF conducted a mass casualty drill on April 17, simulating a public health emergency leading to a medical surge. The drill tested the Hospital Incident Command System's ability to manage the surge while assessing the feasibility of continued patient care within a potentially affected facility.

Mass casualty drill. (Photo courtesy of NHCP)

BUILD READINESS AND SUPPORT LETHALITY

Train, Equip, Enhance

NH/NMRTC Twentynine Palms

Sixteen corpsmen from the hospital's multi-service unit and four firefighters from the installation's fire department participated in a Tactical Combat Casualty Care (TCCC) training March 21, reinforcing their ability to provide critical medical support in operational environments. This training also generates a ready medical force by building skills necessary to provide life-saving, pre-hospital care and function in high-stress situations.

Hospital corpsmen assigned to the Multi-Service Unit at NHTP participate in Tactical Combat Casualty Care (TCCC) training alongside the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Fire Department. (Photo by Christopher Jones, NHTP PAO).

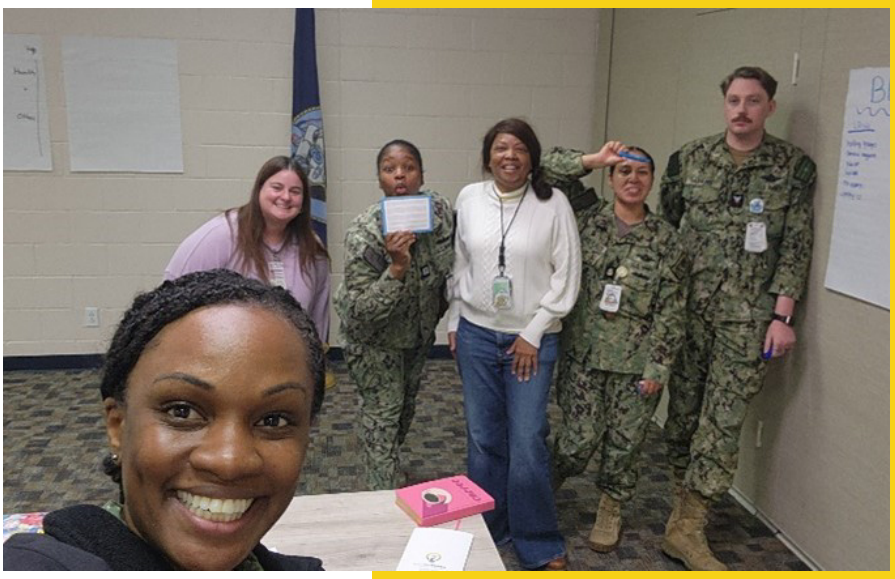
Staff participated in a mass casualty drill on April 10th, based on a scenario of an ammunition discharge resulting in six simulated patients whose triage categories ranged from immediate to walking wounded. The goal of the drill was to increase efficiency for their processes and train new staff on Code Grey protocols. Due to the emergency department's accelerated response time and the patient administration department's newly created mass casualty team, the drill demonstrated a 40% increase in efficiency for patient tracking and related procedures.

BUILD READINESS AND SUPPORT LETHALITY

Train, Equip, Enhance

NH/NMRTC Twentynine Palms

The director of public health, Cmdr. Christina Carter, led a week-long audiology technician certification course April 21-25. The course had five participants, active duty and civilian, from the hospital and local commands, enhancing the MTF's capacity to conduct audiograms and ensuring more personnel understand noise's impact on hearing, the importance of hearing protection, and the purpose of audiometric testing. More personnel available to conduct audiometric testing will increase early intervention for potential hearing issues, ensuring the health and readiness of our forces.



Cmdr. Christina Carter and audiology techs. (Photo by Christopher Jones, NHTP PAO).

NHC/NMRTC Lemoore

The MTF leveraged Patient Safety Week, March 10-14, to enhance patient safety and care quality by conducting activities that focused on education, communication, and teamwork.

On March 12, MTF leadership visited Adventist Health Hanford, a network community hospital, to discuss their shared patient population, existing External Resource Sharing Agreement (ERSA), the TriWest contract transition, and access to specialty care. The ERSA allows Lemoore's active duty providers to deliver care to military health beneficiaries at Adventist that can't be provided at the MTF (obstetric care, and orthopedic and gynecologic procedures).

BUILD READINESS AND SUPPORT LETHALITY

Train, Equip, Enhance

NHC/NMRTC Lemoore

From March 18-20, health benefits advisors from the MTF and BHC Fallon attended the TRICARE Fundamentals course. Staff gained knowledge about benefits, enrollment fees, reimbursements, and requirements for TRICARE for Life, allowing the team the knowledge to better serve beneficiaries and deliver excellence in health care.

Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class Daniela Rojas-Corral instructed 12 Airmen at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, on expeditionary blood trans-shipment and frozen blood processing. Her temporary duty assignment from March 28 to April 7 resulted in a 100% pass rate for the course, enhancing personnel deployment readiness through improved blood inventory management.

U.S. Air Force technicians assigned to the 379th Expeditionary Medical Squadron Blood Transshipment Center (BTC) load blood shipments. (DVIDS)

A preventive medicine technician from the MTF's Naval Medical Administrative Unit Monterey provided a vital food safety training to 85 Naval Postgraduate School students April 3-4. The training focused on personal hygiene practices, proper food sanitation techniques, and strategies to prevent foodborne illnesses, which are key to health and readiness.

NHC/NMRTC Oak Harbor

The MTF is re-enrolling 154 TRICARE Prime beneficiaries. As capacity has increased at the MTF, the team looked at all Prime beneficiaries within a 30-minute drive time to determine who they could reattract. They are working with TriWest to assign these beneficiaries to the clinic and initiate appointments.

BUILD READINESS AND SUPPORT LETHALITY

Train, Equip, Enhance

NMC/NMRTC San Diego

Mercy Exercise (MERCEX) 25 was successfully conducted March 10-21. This quarterly exercise maintains the readiness of the medical platform as well as the 450 NMC/NMRTC SD personnel who participated in the evolution.

Sailors transport a simulated patient from the boat ramp of the hospital ship USNS Mercy. (Photo by MC2 Jacob Woitzel)

USNH/USNMRTC Okinawa

The MTF hosted the first ever high-level sterilization course for the Pacific region April 10. Attendees earned up to 24 CEUs while gaining practical training on sterilizer troubleshooting and high-level disinfection protocols. This specialized training was delivered to 70 forward-deployed medical professionals who attended in person and virtually from 25 different facilities across Guam, Korea, and Japan.

Attendees of the first-ever Asia-Pacific High-Level Sterilization Course at USNHO. (Photo by Isaac Savitz, USNHO PAO)

USNH/USNMRTC Yokosuka

On March 11, 15 third-year medical students and two faculty from the host nation National Defense Medical College (NDMC) toured the MTF. Building positive relationships with the next generation of Japanese military medical providers strengthens partnerships with our allies and enhances combat support.

Students and faculty from the National Defense Medical College tour USNHY. (Photo by Daniel Taylor, USNHY Public Affairs)

BUILD READINESS AND SUPPORT LETHALITY

Train, Equip, Enhance

USNH/USNMRTC Yokosuka

Navy Medicine's EMS Director, Capt. Joseph Kotora, conducted a site visit to discuss EMS capabilities March 17. This included discussions about required training for EMS directors, ongoing training and increased scope of practice for EMTs, and standardized protocols and programs. This will bolster emergency care for warfighters and their families.

Emergency response personnel assist simulated casualties during a mass casualty drill. (Photo by Ms. Ai Hazama, USNHY Public Affairs)

Three Japanese Fellows graduated March 21 and were matched to well-reputed residencies in the U.S. (general surgery, internal medicine/pediatrics, and cardiothoracic surgery), highlighting the effectiveness of the MTF's fellowship program that fosters positive relationships with our host nation medical professionals.

Students practice skills during a six-week EMT Course. (Photo by Ms. Ai Hazama, USNHY Public Affairs)

The MTF/USNMRTC is hosting an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) course for 14 Sailors April 7-May 16. Upon graduation, these Sailors will be nationally registered EMTs, a certification that is transferable to civilian care, and they will serve at facilities across the Pacific, supporting installations that do not have contracted EMS capabilities, extending life-saving support to beneficiaries in these locations.

BUILD READINESS AND SUPPORT LETHALITY

Train, Equip, Enhance

USNH/USNMRT Yokosuka

USNMRTC Sailors working at the MTF will participate in and provide medical support for the Navy's annual Physical Readiness Test cycle, covering installations across 6,000 miles and three countries—Japan, Korea, and the British Indian Ocean Territory—from April 7th to May 30th. The annual PRT requirement ensures Sailors are physically fit and the medical coverage by hospital staff ensures participants receive appropriate care for any injuries or illnesses sustained during the events.

Sailors participate in the annual PRT. (Photo by HN Tiffany Williams, USNHY)

Staff from Branch Health Clinic Sasebo conducted a blood drive in support of the Armed Services Blood Program April 23, collecting 76 units of blood. This event helped refill the ASBP's live-saving supply of blood products while also providing the opportunity for MTF staff to get hands-on experience collecting donor blood, a critical wartime skill.

Personnel from ASBBC Okinawa, U.S. Naval Hospital (USNH) Yokosuka and American Red Cross conduct a blood drive. (Photo by Daniel Taylor, USNHY Public Affairs).

TAKING CARE OF OUR PEOPLE

Grow Our Talent

NH/NMRTC Twentynine Palms

Lt. Cmdr. Holly Berkley, a Navy obstetrician-gynecologist, was named the U.S. Navy's Junior Winner of the Award for the Advancement of Women Physicians in Military Medicine. The award recognizes leadership, advocacy, and a commitment to mentorship in military medicine.

Lt. Cmdr. Holly Berkley. (Photo by Christopher Jones, NHTP PAO)

NHC/NMRTC Lemoore

Hospital Corpsmen from Naval Medical Administrative Unit Monterey recently fostered joint service cooperation and skills development. Hospital Corpsman 1st Class (HM1) Yan Yang coordinated suitability screening training for 11 Army nurses at the Presidio of Monterey April 10. HM1 Cameron Ausman conducted food safety training for 80 personnel during International Day at Naval Support Activity Monterey. And HM1 Thomas Hanson II participated in joint service pistol range training with Presidio of Monterey medical and dental personnel on April 17.

USNH/USNMRTC Guam

The MTF hosted two Navy Nurse Corps Reservists who conducted a Trauma Nursing Core Course (TNCC) March 10-14. The hospital leveraged their expertise to reinvigorate its own TNCC and sustain it in the future to force multiply and ensure they meet expeditionary medical platform requirements.

On April 11, the MTF honored two nurses in its first DAISY Award recognition ceremony. Lt. Cmdr. Cheree Nagle was awarded for her compassionate care supporting the multi-service unit and Ms. Jessamine Martinez was awarded for her patient-centered care. In all, eleven nurses from the hospital were nominated by peers, staff, patients, and patient families.

TAKING CARE OF OUR PEOPLE

Grow Our Talent

USNH/USNMRTC Okinawa

On March 19, Lt. Cmdr. Sarah Alferos, a former AVID (Advancement via Individual Determination) student at Lester Middle School on Okinawa, visited Kadena Middle School to speak with two classes about her career journey as a Navy physical therapist. Opportunities such as this strengthen the hospital's ties with the military community and supports recruitment efforts by creating knowledge and excitement about careers in military medicine among the future generation of healthcare professional.

Lt. Cmdr. Sarah Alferos. (Photo courtesy of USNHO)

Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class Joyce Ramos, an advanced laboratory technician, was recently recognized for significantly contributing to warfighter readiness and healthcare excellence by ensuring the accuracy and efficiency of laboratory services for 189,000 warfighters in the Western Pacific. As the assistant hematology work center supervisor, Ramos ensured a 99.6% accuracy rate for 6,200 test results, directly supporting the delivery of high-quality healthcare.

HM3 Joyce Ramos (center) receiving an award. (Photo courtesy of USNHO)

USNH/USNMRTC Yokosuka

MTF and NTT Medical Center staff shared patient cases and discussed best practices at the 15th Joint Medical Conference April 18 in Tokyo. The conference highlighted NTT Medical Center services, including medical oncology and interventional cardiology, now available to U.S. beneficiaries. Dr. James Saucedo, a hand and wrist surgery professor at the University of Texas at Memorial Hermann, was invited by USNH Yokosuka to deliver the keynote address.